

Tizard Bank, 5 fathoms (*H.M.S. 'Rambler'*); Macclesfield Bank, 13 fathoms (*H.M.S. 'Penguin'*).

*Madrepora violacea.*

Corallum cespitose or subcorymbose from an incrusting base. Branches short, stout, and much divided, somewhat angular near the base; main divisions 2·5 to 3·5 centim. long, over 1 centim. diameter at a point 1 centim. below the apex. Axial corallites 2·5 to 3·5 millim. diameter, usually 1·5 millim. exsert, subconical, with a rounded margin. Lateral corallites chiefly stout, spreading, tubular, with smaller tubular, nariform, or subimmersed ones between; stout corallites sometimes in subregular rows, diameter 2 to 2·5 millim., length 2 to 4 millim., inner part of the wall often a little shorter than the outer, margin distinctly rounded; the longer ones bear buds. Wall dense and thick. Star moderately developed in stout corallites, but scarcely recognizable elsewhere.

Fiji (*Rayner*); Great Barrier Reef (*Saville-Kent*); Macclesfield Bank, 7 to 8 and 13 fathoms (*H.M.S. 'Penguin'*).

LVII.—*Description of a new Species of Slug from South Africa.* By EDGAR A. SMITH.

THE British Museum has recently received from Mr. J. H. Ponsonby a very remarkable slug which was collected near Pietermaritzburg (Natal) by Mr. H. Burnup.

It belongs to the genus *Apera*\*, of which only a single species has as yet been described. This group originally bore the name of *Chlamydephorus*†; but as that term had previously been employed in Mammalia‡, that suggested by Heynemann may be conveniently substituted. Heynemann, however, does not appear to have been aware that Agassiz had used the name *Chlamydephorus*, which is practically the same as Binney's *Chlamydephorus*, but abolished Binney's name on the ground that it indicated a false characteristic, namely the presence of a mantle. On the contrary, Heynemann considered that the pallium was entirely wanting or concealed, and hence he proposed the term *Apera*.

\* Heynemann, Jahrb. deutsch. Mal. Gesell. 1885, p. 20.

† Binney, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. Harvard, vol. v. (1879), p. 331.

‡ Agassiz, Nomen. Zool. Mammal. p. 8 (1842).

The known species *A. Gibbonsi* also occurs in South Africa.

*Apera Burnupi.*

Corpus (in alcoh. serv.) medioeriter elongatum, quadratum, postice leviter dilatatum, antice parum attenuatum, superne utrinque dorsum carinatum, carina secunda prope pedem, a capite ad longit. totius  $\frac{2}{3}$  extendente, utrinque instructum, undique granulatam, sordide luteum, maculis punctisque nigris copiose pictum; dorsum inter carinas concavum, striis duobus parallelis a capite usque ad extremitatem caudæ sculptum, striis foramine radiantibus ornatum; latera æque concava; caput obtusum; tentacula contracta; pes luteus, immaculatus, marginibus distinctis circumscriptus; testa tenuissima.

Longit. 28 millim., diam. 8; foramen ab extremitate ad 8 millim. situm.

The quadrate form of this remarkable animal at once distinguishes it from any other slug. The keel or angle which limits the back on each side extends from the head to the posterior extremity. On the other hand the lateral keels or ridges, a little above the foot, reach about two thirds along the sides, commencing at the head. What appearance these carinæ may present when the animal is living is uncertain; but doubtless they are much accentuated by contraction in spirit.

The concave back widens a trifle posteriorly and then curves in to a terminal point. The foramen is situated in the centre of this expansion, and from it radiate impressed striæ in all directions, and those which pass beyond or cut across the marginal keels give them a scalloped appearance. The entire surface is coarsely granular and covered with more or less anastomosing impressed lines; two, parallel to each other and about a millimetre apart, run down the middle of the back from end to end; a single more or less distinct line can also be noticed along each side between the keels. All the tentacles are completely retracted beneath the skin, and no genital opening behind the right one is observable. Apparently there is no caudal pore. The foot is broad, has a distinct margin, and occupies almost three fourths of the entire width of the animal.

On cutting the skin near the dorsal opening a shell as thin as paper was discovered. It was white, calcareous, and broken up, but probably in life would be entire.